

PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
GENERAL CONVENTION

OF DELEGATES FROM THE  
NORTHERN AND WESTERN CONFERENCES

OF THE  
METHODIST PROTESTANT CHURCH,

Held at Pittsburg, Pa., Nov. 14-19, 1860.

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SPRINGFIELD, O:

PRINTED AT THE METHODIST PROTESTANT BOOK CONCERN.

1862.



offensive to our slaveholding brethren. All prospect and hope of their regarding our appeals, has well nigh fled—they seem more and more fixed in their purpose to sustain and perpetuate in the Church what we are constrained to deem a moral wrong. Hence, we are in difficulty. Hence, our cause has been impeded in many sections of our work. On account of this we have sustained extensive losses, in our ministry and our membership. On account of this the minds and consciences of thousands of our people are ill at ease, and they cannot be satisfied to continue our ecclesiastical union with the slaveholding section of the Meth. Prot. Church, unless the offense complained of be removed. We are threatened with extensive disruption and falling off from our ranks, unless we are relieved and freed from what many deem a criminal complicity with a declared moral evil of the highest grade.

We would not make ourselves further offensive to our Southern brethren, by reiterating appeals which have heretofore been deemed ungrateful, if not insulting to their feelings; much less would we be unreasonable, to make demands of the General Conference which it is out of the power of that body to grant. But we will here state a few modifications of the constitution and discipline, which we deem indispensable to our success as a Church, in the Districts which we represent:

First—The word “white” should be struck from the Constitution, Art. XII., Sections 1 and 2, as establishing an invidious distinction, not in accordance with the principles of the Gospel of Him who made of one blood all the nations of men, to dwell on all the face of the earth.

Second—The third item and annexed proviso, embraced in the 4th section of Art. VII., should be struck from the Constitution, because it is understood and used to protect ministers and members of the Church in the practice of slaveholding and slavetrading.

Third—A clause should be inserted, specifically setting forth that the practices of voluntary slaveholding and slavetrading, will be henceforth a barrier to membership in the Methodist Protestant Church.

We respectfully suggest that the General Conference express its concurrence in such an alteration in the 8th and 9th Articles of the Constitution, as will release the Annual Conferences from all obligation to meet in one General Conference, by recommending to the several Annual Conferences, to call a special General Conference, to be held in May, 1859, and confer authority thereon to make the requisite alterations in the Articles above specified.

This Convention is aware that the General Conference has not constitutional authority to modify the Constitution, but upon recommendation of two thirds of the Annual Conferences. But General Conferences have heretofore deemed it within their prerogative to adopt recommendations for the subsequent action of the Annual Conferences. If, therefore, it shall be the pleasure of the General Conference of 1858, during its session, to recommend to the Annual Conferences to adopt such action as above, for the purpose of removing the objections and difficulties, from which we so seriously suffer, and without the removal of which we deem it impossible for us to enjoy success, then in such case we will consent to await the action of the Annual Conferences thereupon. But if this General Conference should not see good to adopt the action necessary to remove our difficulties, we cannot conscientiously consent to a further continuance of our ecclesiastical connection.

We wish to inflict no unkind reproaches upon our Southern brethren. Nor would we assume to be the judge of our neighbor. But we have calmly presented, in a brief manner, the embarrassments of our position as connected with the slaveholding portion of the Church, and the action which would be necessary to obviate our difficulties.

Praying that the Great Head of the Church may enlighten and influence your minds, and dispose your deliberations to the advancement of his glory,

We remain yours sincerely, &c.,  
J. J. WHITE, Secretary.

W. COLLIER, President.



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Praying that the Great Head of the Church may enlighten and influence your minds, and dispose your deliberations to the advancement of his glory,

We remain yours sincerely, &c.,  
J. J. WHITE, Secretary.

W. COLLIER, President.



## PROCEEDINGS OF CONVENTION.

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The Convention provided for, and ordered by the Springfield Convention of 1858, met pursuant to notice, in the Fifth st. Methodist Protestant Church, in the city of Pittsburgh, this morning, November 14th, 1860, at 10 o'clock, and organized temporarily by calling the REV. GEORGE BROWN, D. D., of the Pittsburgh District to the chair, and the REV. J. J. WHITE, of the Ohio District as Secretary.

Opening religious services were conducted by REV. JOEL DALBEY, of North Iowa.

On motion of Rev. S. Morrison, the Secretary proceeded to call the roll from the published list of delegates elect.

The following is a list of the Annual Conferences concurring in the call of the Convention, with the names of the delegates chosen to represent them:

	<i>Ministers.</i>	<i>Laymen.</i>
<i>Boston District,</i>	J. M. Mayall,	A. B. Maxim.
<i>N. Y. and Vt. Dist.,</i>	J. J. Smith,	C Tomkins,
	W. H. Miller,	Th. Brown.*
<i>New Jersey District,</i>	T. H. Colhour,	L. L. Campbell.*
<i>Onondaga District,</i>	D. Cook,*	G. White.*
<i>Genesee District,</i>	E. A. Wheat,*	Ira Cary.*
<i>Pennsylvania District,</i>	J. K. Helmbold,	S. Whitaker.*
<i>Pittsburg District,</i>	G. Brown,	H. C. Swart,*
	W. Reeves,	J. Redman,
	H. Palmer,	W. J. Troth.
<i>Muskingum District,</i>	J. Burns,	J. D. Tingle.*
	G. Clancy,	H. Cassell,
	W. H. Marshall	I. Hull,*
	J. S. Thrap,	R. Beckham,
	E. S. Hoagland,*	J. D. Daton,*
	A. Abbott,*	S. Cupp.*
<i>Ohio District,</i>	W. R. Parsons,	J. Whetstone,
	J. Kost,	J. M. Johnson,
	A. H. Bassett,	S. Graham,*
	J. J. White,	J. G. Rockhill,
	J. B. Walker,	F. A. Finley.



PROCEEDINGS

OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

OF THE COUNTY OF ALBANY

IN A SPECIAL SESSION

HELD AT ALBANY

ON THE 10TH DAY OF JANUARY

1880



D. D., of the Pittsburg District was unanimously elected permanent President of the Convention, and Rev. J. J. WHITE, of the Ohio District, as permanent Secretary. H. CASSELL, of the Muskingum District, was elected Assistant Secretary.

Rev. C. GRAY reported on Rules of Order, which on motion, were adopted.

The Report of the Committee to Prepare Subjects was taken up.

The Committee appointed to report subjects for the deliberations of this Convention would report:

1st subject.—The Editorial Department of the Paper; embracing the matter of the Paper, its form, size, and quality of both material and work, and the duties and responsibilities of the Editor. Committee of three.

2d.—The Publishing Department of the Paper; embracing the state of its finances, in relation to its receipts and expenditures and disbursements, and the mode of publishing, price and terms of the paper, the salary of the Editor, and any other payees of the Convention.

3d.—The Book Department; embracing receipts and disbursements, the price of books and whatever else the Book Department may suggest. Committee of three.

4th.—Sunday Schools; embracing every thing of interest this subject may suggest. Committee of three.

5th.—Education; embracing whatever this subject may suggest. Committee of three.

6th.—The Cause of Missions. Committee of three.

7th.—Our present and future policy; embracing first, the propriety of legislating upon the Constitution and Discipline at this session. Second, the plan of calling a future Convention, including the time and place for its meeting, and the powers of said body. Committee of three.

8th.—Statistics. Committee of one.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

GEORGE CLANCY, *Chairman*.

The Report was considered by items and adopted.

THURSDAY MORNING, NOV. 15, 8½ o'clock.

Opening religious services conducted by Rev. W. H. MILLER, of New York and Vermont District.

The President of the Convention being absent, Rev. J. BURNS, of Muskingum, was called to the chair.

The several Committees ordered by the Convention were then reported as selected by the President, and the several Committees appointed, as follows:

First Subject, *Editorial Department of the Paper*.—J. J. Smith, of N. Y. and Vermont, Joel Dalbey, of Iowa, and A. D. Whitford, of Wabash.

Second Subject, *Publishing Department of the Paper*.—J. S. Thrapp, of Muskingum, J. P. Johnston, of Illinois, and C. Tomkins, of New York.

Third Subject, *Book Department*.—J. Burns, of Muskin-



<i>Indiana District,</i>	S. Morrison,	A. D. Amos.
<i>Wabash District,</i>	J. C. Wright,	A. D. Whitford.
<i>Michigan District,</i>	Joshua Leach,*	G. J. Daniels.*
<i>Western Michigan Dist.</i>	H. H. Hulbert,	R. Ramsby.
<i>Illinois District,</i>	J. P. Johnston,	J. Lingle.
<i>North Illinois District,</i>	C. Gray,	Wm. Cullen.*
<i>South Illinois District,</i>	R. Wright,*	J. Laughead.*
<i>North Iowa District,</i>	Joel Dalbey,	O. M. Culver.*
<i>Minnesota Distriet,</i>	S. Jones,*	C. Closson.*
<i>Nebraska Mission Dist.</i>	J. M. Young,	Dr. R. Peery.*

Iowa, Wisconsin, and Maine Conferences not reported.

Those marked thus (\*) were not in attendance.

A letter from REV. A. ABBOTT, of the Muskingum District, was received, read, and on motion, placed on file.

On motion of REV. G. CLANCY, a committee of three was ordered on appropriate subjects to be brought before the Convention for its action. The chair appointed G. Clancy, W. Reeves, and John Whetstone said committee.

On motion, a committee of three, was ordered on Rules of order, whereupon J. S. Thrap, C. Gray, and H. Cassell were appointed said committee.

On motion of Br. Reeves, the following brethren were appointed a committee to fill the pulpits during the sessions of the Convention, Brs. Herr, Rutledge and Cowl.

The Convention then proceeded to fix the hours of meeting and adjournment, as follows:

The Convention to meet at half past 8 o'clock A. M., and at half past 1 o'clock P. M. The Convention to adjourn at half past 11 o'clock A. M. and at 5 o'clock P. M.

#### WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, 1½ O'CLOCK.

Moved by REV. J. P. JOHNSON, that all the ministers of the M. P. Church in attendance upon the sessions of the Convention, with all other Protestant evangelical ministers who may be present, may be introduced by any member and invited to a seat within the bar. Carried.

On motion of BR. MARSHALL, a committee of three was ordered on Documents. The chair appointed Brs. Marshall, Miller and Johnson.

G. CLANCY, from Committee on Subjects to be brought before the Convention, read a Report, and then moved that it be laid on the table until the Convention be permanently organized. Carried.

On motion of REV. W. H. MARSHALL, REV. G. BROWN,



the Board of Missions, read a report of said Board made to the Convention, including the Treasurer's Report of the Board of Missions, which on motion, were referred to the appropriate Committees. After which the Convention took a recess of one hour.

At the expiration of the hour, the Chairman called the Convention to order. There being no business, the Convention took another recess of half an hour to give Committees time to prepare their reports. At the expiration of the time given, the Convention was called to order.

REV. G. CLANCY, from Committee on our present relations and future policy submitted Report in part, pending the discussion of which, the Convention adjourned.

FRIDAY MORNING, NOV. 16.

Convention met. Opening religious services conducted by REV. J. C. WRIGHT.

A written communication was received from Fraternal Messengers appointed by the late General Conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Connexion, to this Convention; read, and on motion, referred to a Committee of two.

The Chair appointed F. A. Finley, of Ohio, and H. Palmer, of Muskingum.

The Report on present and future policy of the Church was taken up, discussed and on motion, adopted, as follows:

The Committee upon our Present and Future Policy would Report in part, to wit: Upon the propriety of legislating upon the Constitution and Discipline at this session. Your Committee have had before them instructions upon this subject from North Illinois, Illinois, New Jersey, North Iowa, Western Michigan, Wabash, Indiana, New York, Nebraska, Pittsburg and Ohio, some in favor, and others opposed to legislation. Those in favor stand thus:

*For the Appointment of a General Conference*—Wabash, Pennsylvania, North Illinois and Illinois—4.

*Restrictive Rule*—New York, Illinois, North Illinois and Pittsburgh—4.

*Stationing President*—New York, Indiana, North Illinois and N. Jersey—4.

*Deaconship Abolished*—North Illinois, Illinois, Western Michigan—3.

As such number of Conferences as embrace a majority of the members of the Confederation of Northern and Western Conferences have not instructed in favor of legislation upon any part of either Constitution or Discipline of the Church, this Convention has no power to make any alteration in either Constitution or Discipline, and your Committee ask to be dismissed from this branch of their subject.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

GEO. CLANCY, Ch'n.

REV. J. C. WRIGHT moved that the roll of Conferences be called, and that the delegates answer whether their respective Conferences expected this Convention to legislate on the Constitution and Discipline. Upon the calling the roll, 14 Conferences responded, 10 aye, and 4 no.

REV. A. H. BASSETT made his report to the Convention as



gum, Wm. Reeves, of Pittsburg, and R. Ramsby of Western Michigan.

Fourth Subject, *Sunday Schools*.—J. B. Walker, of Ohio, J. K. Helmbold, of Pennsylvania, and W. J. Troth, of Pittsburg.

Fifth Subject, *Education*.—Dr. J. Kost, of Ohio, J. M. Mayall, of Boston, and W. H. Miller, of New York.

Sixth Subject, *Mission Cause*.—J. M. Young, of Nebraska, S. Morrison of Indiana, and J. M. Johnson of Ohio.

Seventh Subject, *Our Present and Future Policy*.—G. Clancy, of Muskingum, C. Gray, of North Illinois, and J. Whetstone, of Ohio.

Eighth Subject, *Statistics*.—A. H. Bassett, of Ohio.

On motion of BR. CLANCY, T. H. Colhour and W. R. Parsons were added to the committee No. 7, on our Present and Future Relations.

Papers of instruction to delegates were read, and on motion, referred to appropriate Committees, as follows:—Iowa, Wabash, North Illinois, North Iowa, Illinois, Cincinnati 6th st. station, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York and Vt., New Jersey, Indiana, Pittsburg, Western Michigan, and Nebraska Conferences.

REV. J. SCOTT asked and obtained leave to read a report upon the Allegheny Seminary, which on motion was referred to the Committee on Education.

REV. A. H. BASSETT offered the following resolution, sustaining it by a carefully prepared speech:

*Resolved*, That this Convention, in behalf of the Conferences and Churches herein represented, gratefully acknowledges the goodness of God, in bringing us as a people through the late agitation, to our present state of general peace and union among ourselves.

The resolution was, on motion, adopted.

On motion of BR. CLANCY, the official report of the Board of Trust was referred to the appropriate committees.

On motion, convention adjourned.

#### THURSDAY AFTERNOON.

The Convention met pursuant to adjournment. Religious services conducted by REV. J. P. JOHNSTON. The President of the Convention being still absent, REV. J. BURNS was called to the Chair.

BR. REEVES moved that all ministers of the M. P. Church who may be present, be invited to honorary membership. Carried. REV. WM. COLLIER, Corresponding Secretary of



The undersigned states that his report embraces in no wise the transactions of the Building Committee, or the expenditures for lot and buildings. For this branch of the business reference is made to Rev. J. Kost, who is a member of the Board of Trust, and Rev. J. B. Walker, Financial Agent of the Board, who can also represent the state of the donation and subscription accounts.

Respectfully submitted, A. H. BASSETT, *Editor and Book Agent.*

On motion, the Convention adjourned.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON, 1½ O'CLOCK.

Convention met. Opening religious services conducted by REV. J. P. JOHNSTON, of Illinois. REV. W. H. MARSHALL in the Chair.

REV. J. J. SMITH, on behalf of the Committee on the Editorial Department of the paper, presented a report. Pending a motion to adopt, REV. G. CLANCY called for a division of said Report; whereupon, the Convention adopted the first section of the Report. The second section of the Report was on motion, laid on the table.

The remainder of the Report was on motion, adopted. The whole, as adopted, is as follows:

*Report on Editorial Department of W. M. Protestant.*

Your committee to whom was referred the Editorial Department of the Western Methodist Protestant, would respectfully make the following report, viz:

That they have had the same under consideration, and, believing that some changes might be made, in reference to our church organ, that would tend, in some measure, to make it still better and more popular, and thereby secure to it a wider circulation, and consequently greater prosperity, they would, therefore, recommend,

1st, That the Financial and Editorial Departments of the paper be separated, and placed in separate hands, so that the Editor may hereafter be released from the excessive duties necessarily incurred in being Editor, Publisher, and Book Agent at the same time; and that he be permitted to confine himself exclusively to the duties of the Editorial Department; and that an Agent be appointed, whose duty it shall be to take charge of the entire business of the Book Concern, including the publication of the above paper.

2nd, That the Western Methodist Protestant be enlarged to about the size of the Baltimore Methodist Protestant, and that larger type be used hereafter in setting up its forms. 1st, Because many complain of the smallness of the type now used. 2nd, Because the use of larger type will prevent any material increase in the expense of publishing a larger paper, as above proposed. And, 3rd, Because it will improve its general appearance.

We would also recommend that a better quality of paper be used for the Western Methodist Protestant so soon as the financial condition of the Concern will admit of such an improvement.

J. J. SMITH, *Chairman.*

REV. H. PALMER, on behalf of the Committee to whom was referred the communication of the Fraternal Messengers from the Wesleyan General Conference, reported as follows, which on motion, was adopted:

Your Committee to whom was referred the communication from the Fraternal Messengers from the late General Conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of America, submit the following resolutions as their Report:

*Resolved*, 1. That we deeply regret the inability of the Fraternal Messen-



Editor and Book Agent, which on motion was referred to the Committee on Publishing Department of the paper, No. 2.

*Report of Editor and Book Agent.*

*To the President and Members of the Convention of Delegates from Northern and Western Conferences of the M. P. Church :*

Copies of the last Annual Report exhibit the financial condition of the Western Methodist Protestant and Book Concern, up to the end of our fifth financial year, September, 1860, are circulated among the members of the Convention.

The undersigned now submits the following additional statement of the receipts and disbursements for the fractional part of the present financial year, extending to Nov. 3d, inst.

RECEIPTS.

Receipts for Western Methodist Protestant, eight weeks, from Sept. 8 to Nov. 3,	\$1,029 45
Receipts for Books,	450 33
Other receipts,	11 90
	<hr/>
	\$1,491 68
Add balance at end of last quarter, as stated in Annual Report,	49 36
	<hr/>
	\$1,541 04

EXPENDITURES.

All outlays for Printing Office and Book Concern for fractional quarter, to Nov. 3,	\$757 96
	<hr/>
Balance in favor of Concern,	\$783 08
Since the above, on Nov. 7, the amount due to E. Morgan & Sons, Cin., for Stereotyping, Printing, and Binding first edition of Hymn Book, executed in July last, on four months' credit, was paid in full,	775 00
	<hr/>
Balance in cash in hand,	\$8 08

The undersigned has the great pleasure of reporting our concern free from indebtedness. The note given him by the Board of Trust, dated September 3, 1858, for \$2,170 03, at six per cent. interest, being moneys advanced by him and due on his salary, has been cancelled, the amount being paid, including his own donation, and no interest being charged on the note.

The undersigned has ever pursued the policy to have all our expenses promptly met, and to occupy no place in any man's book account. The work done on our Hymn Book, the past season, by a Cincinnati Publishing House, on four months' credit, has constituted the only exception. This has allowed us time to have the Hymn Book pay for itself by the sales thereof. The stereotyping and expenses of first edition being now paid, we have four months on amount due for printing and binding second edition. The time extends to Jan. 12, 1861, and the sales of the books will doubtless meet the expense in due season. The sum unpaid is \$374 00.

Our receipts for paper and book sales have increased very encouragingly within a few months past, and if the same spirit and energy is kept up our periodical will live, and our book business continue to improve. But if the weekly receipts for the paper fall off during the later portion of the year, as has heretofore been the case, the financial exhibit at the end of the year will not be so favorable as the friends of the enterprise would desire to see it. It is important that some means be used to have the receipts kept up during the year ; also to have some measures taken to collect, so far as practicable, the dues on previous volumes of the paper, which amounted, at the time of last Annual Report, to not less than \$3,700.



nity, and that we offer our ardent supplications that God may sustain his spirit in the hour of trial and preserve him to his heavenly kingdom.

It was on motion, *Resolved*, That the Convention visit at 2 o'clock on to-morrow the Pittsburgh cemetery containing the graves of the venerable SHINN and AVERY.

On motion, W. J. TROTH was appointed a committee to make arrangements.

REV. J. K. HELMBOLD offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

*Resolved*, That the judgment of this Convention is, that hereafter the Editor and Book Agent should exercise extra caution as to the character of the advertisements admitted into the paper. Adjourned.

SATURDAY MORNING, 8½ O'CLOCK, NOV. 17.

The Convention opened by religious services conducted by Rev. J. M. YOUNG, of Nebraska.

REV. J. S. THRAP from committee No. 2, on the Publishing Department of the paper, submitted a partial report on the financial condition of the Publishing Department.

On motion of REV. J. BURNS, the Report of the committee was so amended as to make the salary of the Editor of the WESTERN METHODIST PROTESTANT \$700, (seven hundred dollars.)

On motion of REV. H. HULBURT, the Report was so amended as to read, "The salary of the Book Agent shall be \$600, (six hundred dollars.)"

On motion of REV. J. DALBEY, the Convention ordered the moving expenses of REV. G. BROWN to Springfield, Ohio, to be paid, with the understanding that he draw upon the Board of Trust for the payment of the same.

REV. J. B. WALKER moved, that this Convention meet at 1½ o'clock, to go in a body to the Pittsburgh Cemetery. Carried.

Moved by REV. J. B. WALKER, that we hold a night session, commencing at 7 o'clock. Carried.

REV. JOEL DALBEY offered the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That DR. G. BROWN, REV. A. H. BASSETT and REV. G. CLANCY, be a Committee to prepare a synopsis of the Doctrines and Duties of the Christian Religion, and a short synopsis of the Government of the Church, as taught by the Methodist Protestant Church, to be written in form of Questions and Answers.



gers—Brothers Rogers and Chaffin—appointed by the late General Conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of America, to attend in person this Convention now in session.

2, That we appreciate the fraternal sentiments and Christian regards expressed in said communication.

3, That we appoint a Fraternal Delegation to bear our fraternal regards to the Wesleyan Methodist Church of America at its next General Conference.

H. PALMER,  
F. A. FINDLEY.

REV. J. S. THRAP, on behalf of the Committee on Publishing Department of the paper, reported its financial condition. Report recommitted.

REV. J. S. THRAP moved that when we adjourn, we adjourn to meet at 7 o'clock, this evening. Carried. REV. G. CLANCY moved that the order of the day for the night session be, the election of Editor and Book Agent. Carried.

#### FRIDAY EVENING, 7 O'CLOCK.

Religious services conducted by REV. J. K. HELMBOLD. On motion, Convention proceeded to the election of Editor and Book Agent.

REV. C. GRAY and W. J. TROTH were appointed tellers.

The following brethren were placed in nomination for Editor: G. BROWN, A. H. BASSETT and E. A. WHEAT.

The Convention proceeded to ballot, which resulted as follows: Whole number of votes cast, 34; REV. G. BROWN received 23, and having received a majority of all the votes cast, was on motion, declared unanimously elected, by a rising vote.

The Convention then proceeded to the election of Book Agent, resulting as follows: Whole number of votes cast, 33; REV. A. H. BASSETT received 28, and having received a majority of all the votes cast, was on motion, declared unanimously elected by a rising vote.

REV. J. DALBEY offered the following resolution which was unanimously adopted, by a rising vote:

*Resolved*, That this Convention on behalf of the Conferences of this Confederation, hereby acknowledge the ability and fidelity with which REV. A. H. BASSETT has served them as its Editor and Book Agent, and hereby assure him of our confidence and affection.

REV. A. H. BASSETT offered the following resolution which was unanimously adopted, by rising vote:

*Resolved*, That this Convention has learned with sincere sorrow, that our venerable friend and brother, WILLIAM S. STOCKTON, of Burlington, New Jersey, has been brought low by a serious accident, and seems to be near the gate of eter-



REV. J. P. JOHNSTON moved that the resolution of REV. A. H. BASSETT, expressing gratitude for the goodness of God in bringing us through our late agitation, together with the Address sustaining the resolution, be published in the WESTERN METHODIST PROTESTANT, also in the Minutes of this Convention. Carried.

On motion of REV. J. M. YOUNG, a Missionary Meeting on Sunday afternoon, in the Fifth Street Methodist Protestant Church, at 3 o'clock, was ordered. Adjourned.

MONDAY MORNING, NOV. 19.

The Convention met and opened with religious services by REV. J. J. SMITH, of New York & Vermont District.

REV. J. S. THRAP Chairman of committee No. 2. reported in relation to the mode of publishing paper, books, &c.

After some amendments which were accepted, REV. JOHN BURNS moved the following amendment: That the moneys resulting from the publication of papers and books, shall not be expended upon the building. Carried.

After which, the Report as amended, was adopted.

*Report of Com. on Publishing Department of the Paper.*

Committee No. 2, to whom was referred the Publishing Department of the paper, embracing the state of its finances, &c., beg leave to submit the following:

First, On the financial condition of the paper, That by reference to the journal of the Convention of 1858, pages 20 and 21, we find the receipts for the first three volumes, and the first eight weeks of the fourth, to be at that time \$15,636 12; and the amount of expenditures, during the same period, \$17,078 24, showing an excess of expenditures of \$1,442 12, added to which money advanced by Br. A. H. Bassett amounting to \$727 91, showed an indebtedness, (all of which was to the Editor and Book Agent) above receipts, of \$2,170 03.

At the same date the assets of the Concern amounted, in the aggregate, to \$7,366, 95; deducting from which the indebtedness to Editor and Agent, \$2,170 03, left assets, clear of all debts, amounting to \$5,196 92.

Receipts of the fourth volume, dating from the		
ninth week, (the first eight weeks having been included in the report of 1858)		\$5,081 82
"	of fifth volume,	5,979 81
"	of eight weeks of sixth volume,	1,491 68
" in all since Nov., 1858,		<hr/> \$12,553 31
Expenditures for fourth volume,	\$4,493 35	
" " fifth "	5,076 86	
" of eight weeks of sixth volume,	757 96	
" for stereotyping and printing H. Book,	775 00	
" paid to Editor and Agent,	1,442 12	
Whole amount of expenditures since Nov., 1858,		<hr/> 12,545 30
Leaves in favor of Concern,		<hr/> \$ 8 01

For the want of the proper reports, we have been unable to ascertain even an approximate amount of the assets of the Concern, but are glad to be able to report that so far as we have been able to learn by the figures furnished us, the



On motion, the resolution was referred to the Literary Committee.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON, 1½ O'CLOCK.

The Convention met, and regularly opened its session, but no business being presented, Convention adjourned.

SATURDAY NIGHT, 7 O'CLOCK.

Convention met. Religious exercises conducted by Rev. W. H. MARSHALL. Rev. J. Kost, from Committee on Education made report, (No. 5,) which was, on motion, laid on the table.

Rev. A. H. Bassett made his report on Statistics, which on motion, was adopted, as follows:

ANNUAL CONFERENCES.	ITINERANT MIN'S AND PREACHERS	UNSTAT'D MINIST'S & PREACH'RS	MEMBERS.	HOUSES OF WORSHIP.	PARSON'GS	VALUATION OF CH. PROP.
Maine,	11		500	41½	1	\$ 6000
Boston,	20	3	650	15	2	45700
New York & Vermont,	24	31	1909	41½	4	86000
New Jersey,	13	17	1073	20		20200
Onondaga,	30	23	1342	13	7	14050
Genesee,	30	18	995	6	6	16250
Pennsylvania,	25	24	1041	9	1	11250
Pittsburgh,	36	25	3582	42½	7	99800
Muskingum,	60	54	6569	140	14	113100
Ohio,	61	42	5135	98½	15	113625
Michigan,	40	19	1581	2	5	3075
Western Michigan,	37	56	1162	6	6	7750
Indiana,	19	23	1948	31	3	15500
Wabash,	21	21	874	15½		7700
Illinois,	25	39	1327	20	4	32700
North Illinois,	39	34	1617	16⅔	15	23830
South Illinois,	27	14	1957	8	3	5325
Iowa,	22	5	971	3	1	2700
North Iowa,	28	7	924	6	1	10800
Wisconsin,	13		329	2	1	
Minnesota,	11		300			
Nebraska,	9		167			
Oregon,	13		146	4		4300
	614	455	36099	504	96	\$639655

The Committee regrets that several of the Annual Conferences have failed to publish their statistics for a year or two past; and some have given but partial reports. In the above table, where not able to obtain recent figures, the Committee has ventured to use the figures reported in a previous year. It is very desirable that more full statistics should be collected annually by each of the Annual Conferences, and the Committee is anxious to see an immediate improvement in this regard.

Respectfully submitted,

A. H. BASSETT, Com. on Statistics.



REV. J. KOST moved that the Report on Education be taken from the table. Carried.

The Report being before the Convention, on a motion for adoption, pending the discussion thereof, the Convention adjourned.

AFTERNOON SESSION, 1½ O'CLOCK.

The Convention met and opened with religious services by REV. JOHN SCOTT.

REV. J. M. YOUNG, from Committee on Missions, submitted the Report from said committee, which, on motion, was laid on the table.

The motion pending at the time of adjournment, on Education, was taken up. REV. W. H. MILLER offered two resolutions as an amendment to the Report. The resolutions after some amendments were adopted and appended to the Report. The Report in full was then, on motion, adopted as amended. The following persons recorded their votes against the adoption of the Report: G. CLANCY, J. K. HELMBOLD, J. S. THRAP and W. H. MARSHALL.

*Report of Committee on Education.*

Your Committee on Education ask leave to report as follows :

They have a knowledge of three respective enterprises in our church for education, viz :

1st. A report of the Board of Corporators of the Allegheny Seminary, which report is herewith submitted.

2nd. They have information of the North Illinois University, located at Henry, Marshall county, Ill. This institution has been in operation, in some of its departments, under the superintendence of Prof. G. B. McElroy, a gentleman of acknowledged ability as a scholar, and of unquestioned piety. The property is said to be worth \$15,000, but is \$6,000 in debt, which is now in course of liquidation.

3rd. They have knowledge also of an enterprise at Chillicothe, Ohio, where the citizens propose to donate suitable buildings, and the local appliances for a college, on condition that the M. P. Church endow the professorships and take charge of the same. The Ohio Annual Conference responded to a suggestion from the citizens of Chillicothe, and appointed a committee to visit the place; and take the matter into full consideration; a report of which committee, and the primary action of citizens there, published in the Chillicothe Advertiser, is herewith also submitted. The Ohio Annual Conference also left one of its ministers, Rev. N. S. Smith, subject to the demands of this College enterprise. Mr. Smith is now present in this body with intelligence from Chillicothe in reference to a late act by the citizens there in this regard, and your Committee suggest that Mr. Smith be called upon by this body for such information as he may be able to give.

Your Committee are of opinion that we, as a church, have occasion for renewed activity in the cause of education, but do not advise incurring any responsibilities by the church in the erection of buildings, or the purchase of real estate. We find that the plan of procedure which experience has proved alone successful, is for churches to invest only for the endowment of professorships, or for the immediate appliances of education. Such investment, if properly made, can never be a failure.

Your Committee are of opinion that no failures in College enterprises, either



Concern is out of debt, with \$8 41 in the treasury, and an addition of the complete set of stereotype plates for our Hymn Book, to the assets of 1852.

Secondly, Mode of Publishing. Inasmuch as the duties of Editor and Book Agent have been so divided as to devolve upon two men instead of one, your Committee recommend that all funds for the Paper and Book Concern shall be paid to the Book and Publishing Agent, who shall acknowledge the same in the Western Methodist Protestant, and report quarterly to the Board of Trust, an account of the same, discriminating between the Paper and Book accounts, and make a full report annually of the number of subscribers to the paper, and the amount for books sold in each conference represented in this enterprise, together with a full report of the business of the Concern at the end of each volume of the paper. It shall also be his duty to deposit all moneys by him received for the above purposes with the Treasurer of the Board of Trust, taking the Treasurer's receipt for the same, which receipt he shall put on file in his office, and the money so deposited shall be kept by the Treasurer, to be paid to the salaried officers, together with other employees, and the necessary expenditures of the Paper and Book Concern, subject to order signed by the President and Secretary of the Board.

While under this head, allow your Committee to further recommend, that the plan of government, &c., be so amended as to empower the Literary and Publishing Society, through the Board of Trust, independent of either Editor or Book Agent, to employ all workmen necessary to aid the Book and Publishing Agent in the work of publishing, mailing, &c., both books and the Periodical.

And said Society should have power to fill any vacancy that may occur in either the Editorial or Publishing Department; and also as said Society is directly agent of this Convention, it should hold both Editor and Book Agent responsible for their discharge of duty; and make due report through the Board of Trust to the next meeting of said Convention or other assembly as may have control of the Publishing Institution, of all their proceedings, and of the entire business of the Concern. And said Society should have power to increase the number of the Board of Trust to five.

Said Society should also meet as soon as practicable after the rise of this Convention, for the purpose of making any regulations necessary for carrying on the publishing enterprise; and especially to provide for the safest and most economical mode of conducting the publishing business.

Thirdly, Price and Terms of the Paper.

1. Price.—On this subject your Committee is of one mind in recommending no change.

2. Terms.—Your Committee recommend a strict adherence to the pre-pay system, except in such cases as reliable agents assume the responsibility to the paper.

3. In this connection we will further say that while it is true the receipts of the paper for the last two years have not been so great as the former two, yet we are encouraged to learn that the collections have been better, and the delinquency of subscribers less since the adoption of the pre-pay system than before, so that while we believe that the diminished receipts have to some considerable extent, been the effect of pressure in monetary matters in general, we are at the same time convinced that a more hearty effort upon the part of the agents and friends of the paper generally would have brought in a much greater amount of receipts, and extended our subscription list far beyond its present number; in view of which we recommend the members of this Convention, together with all the friends of the paper throughout the whole confederacy of the Northern and Western Conferences, to use renewed efforts in its behalf.

4. While your Committee would be willing to settle liberal salaries upon our Editor, and Book and Publishing Agents in view of husbanding our limited means to the best advantage to our enterprise in its incipency, we are of the opinion that we will not be justifiable in allowing a salary to the Editor more than \$700, and to the Book and Publishing Agents \$600.

J. S. TERRY, Chairman.



*Resolved, 2,* That we affectionately recommend to our membership the ownership of a copy as a great aid to their devotions in public and social worship.

*Resolved, 3,* That we recommend to our societies where we have meeting houses to procure a supply for the benefit of our congregations.

The committee on Sabbath Schools asked leave to make their Report, which was granted, and the Report on motion, was adopted, as follows :

### *Report of Committee on Sabbath Schools.*

Your Committee to whom was referred the subject of Sabbath Schools desire to report that they have had said subject under careful consideration, and can most heartily recommend to the Convention the adoption of the following resolutions :

*Resolved, 1,* That the children and youth of our own church, and those of the people by whom, in every community, we are surrounded, should be regarded as the hope of the church, and as affording the most promising field in which to bestow our christian labors.

2, That no church can reasonably hope for continued prosperity, which does not faithfully attend to the moral instruction of her children, and does not seek to have their lives, at an early period, in conformity with the precepts of the gospel.

3, That Sabbath Schools, properly organized and conducted, are among the most valuable auxiliaries of the church, in imparting religious instruction to children, restraining them from evil associations, and in leading them, early in life, to the Savior.

4, That we earnestly request our membership, everywhere, to engage, with redoubled vigor and zeal, in this field of christian usefulness already white to the harvest.

5, That we regard the work of a christian minister as by no means finished until, to the extent of his ability and opportunities, he has labored in the Sabbath School cause—not only by encouraging the members of the church to engage in this work, but by personally presenting to the little ones the story of the cross of Christ, as the only way of salvation. Shall the shepherd feed the sheep, and take no care of the lambs ? Shall we labor to induce parents to get to heaven, and suffer the children to go, unwarned, to destruction ?

Your Committee would also recommend to the Convention the following action in reference to our Sabbath School literature. Literature did we say ? Alas for us ! we have, as a church, no Sabbath School literature—not even one little book to put into the hands of our children. If they obtain one at all, it must be a work published by some other denomination of Christians

It is true, that Rev. W. Collier is publishing, on his individual responsibility, that noble little sheet called the "Missionary and Sunday School Journal," which has already done much to advance the Sabbath School work among our people, yet it has not the circulation it should, and we believe would have if our church was properly interested in its success. We are thirty years old as a denomination, are now blessed with sufficient numbers, talent and means to carry forward any enterprise that may be necessary for our success as a branch of the christian church. In view of the above facts we recommend,

1st, That our Literary and Publishing Society be and are hereby requested to make the necessary arrangements for, and, as soon as possible, to publish such Sabbath School works as the wants of our church demand.

2d, That until we are able to supply our Sabbath Schools with our own publications, we request our Book Agent and Board of Trust, at Springfield, Ohio, to make arrangements and keep on hand a sufficient supply of the most approved Sunday School publications, to meet the wants of our people. Said publications to bear the imprint of our publishing establishment.

3d, That our people everywhere be and are hereby requested to patronize and encourage our own book establishment in Springfield, Ohio, so far as their circumstances will admit.



in our church or any other, where no proper system of procedure was practised, should impair confidence in the practicability of successful educational enterprises by confederated church action when properly conducted.

With these views your Committee recommend a favorable response to the memorial of the Board of Corporators of Allegheny Seminary, who ask no pecuniary responsibility, but only tender to our church the charge of the Biblical or Theological Department. The Committee are informed that the services of competent men of our church located there, can be had gratuitously for the present to sustain the Theological Chairs, and they therefore recommend to the Convention the appointment of Rev. Drs. J. Scott and Wm Collier, to divide between them the labors of the Theological Department of this institution, on the terms, for the present, as before suggested; and we commend this institution to the patronage of the church. The Committee also suggest that we commend the North Illinois University to the patronage of the church.

The Committee further report that they find the Collegiate enterprise at Chillicothe projected upon principles very different from any on which former enterprises of the kind in our church have been conducted; that no risk of loss or of disaster being possible when the investments are made for endowments of professorships, instead of the building of edifices or the purchase of real estate, and when the interest only is to be expended in carrying on the institution.

Your Committee believe, therefore, that the generous offer of the buildings and other appliances for college use, made by the citizens of Chillicothe, is worthy of our serious attention, and they recommend action thereon by this Convention. Finally, your Committee learn that the citizens of Chillicothe propose, as soon as our church shall give them encouragement that they will engage in the enterprise, they (the Chillicotheans) will give satisfactory guarantees for their performance. Your Committee, therefore, recommend the appointment by this Convention of a competent Board of Education of say, five members, to act in the case, and provide for raising say \$50,000 of an endowment on the basis above suggested.

Respectfully submitted,

J. KOST, *Chairman.*

*Br Miller's Appended Resolutions.*

*Resolved*, That we recommend the organization of Educational Societies in all our churches for the purpose of procuring means to assist poor but worthy young men in preparing for the work of the christian ministry in the Methodist Protestant Church. Also,

*Resolved*, That the Rev. Dr. Scott, W. Collier, and W. Reeves, be appointed a committee to prepare a uniform plan for the organization and government of said societies.

REV. J. M. YOUNG offered the following resolution in relation to the proposed Chillicothe College, which, on motion, was adopted:

*Resolved*, That the Board of Trustees be instructed by this Convention to enter into no legal obligation with the citizens of Chillicothe until the Endowment Fund is raised.

REV. W. H. MARSHALL offered the following resolution, which, on motion, was adopted—in reference to the Hymn Book.

*Whereas*, The Convention of 1858 did authorize the compiling of a new Hymn Book, which duty was performed chiefly by the Rev. G. Brown, D. D., the third edition of which Hymn Book is now being published.

*Resolved*, That, as a Convention of Annual Conferences, we most cordially approve of the Hymn Book, and do earnestly commend it to the Methodist Protestant Churches and families, as the Hymn Book of our church to be used in our public and social meetings.



sessions, organize themselves severally into a Missionary Society, auxiliary to the Board of Missions in Pittsburg.

3. That any person paying the sum of ——— annually shall be considered a member of said Society, and any person paying the sum of Ten Dollars at one time shall be entitled to a certificate of life membership from the Board.

4. We also recommend the organization of similar societies in the several stations, circuits and missions in the bounds of the several Annual Conferences.

5. That the Board employ an agent as soon as they can secure the services of a suitable man to travel and present the subject of missions to our people extensively according to the provisions of the Discipline.

6. That the Board prepare and forward to the several Annual Conferences, at their ensuing sessions, a suitable constitution for the organization of auxiliary societies, and also publish the same in the Western Methodist Protestant as soon convenient.

Your committee have had before them as mission fields Oregon and Nebraska.

1. As to Oregon, we refer to your consideration a letter from Rev. D. Bagley, addressed to Rev. A. H. Bassett.

2. We recommend the appropriation of one thousand dollars to Nebraska and Kansas Mission, to be appropriated as the Board may direct.

3. We recommend that they pay quarterly in advance the amount due each missionary in their employ.

4. That Rev. J. M. Young be continued in the employ of the Board in the Nebraska Mission.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

J. M. YOUNG, *Chairman*.

The Secretary read a communication from REV. DARIUS COOK, delegate elect from Onondaga Conference. Also, a letter from REV. E. A. WHEAT, delegate elect from Genesee Conference.

REV. J. J. SMITH offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

*Resolved*, That the present arrangement of publishing different indexes to our book of Discipline often embarrasses individuals in seeking out some particular rule or item. We, therefore, authorize that a full and complete alphabetical index be prepared so as to embrace both the Constitution and Discipline, and that said index be published in the next edition in the place of those now in use.

The Chairman announced the following persons as composing the Board of Education recommended in the Report of Committee on Education to oversee the interests of the proposed Chillicothe College: Dr. John Kost, Joseph J. White, James D. Hicks, J. M. Johnson, and Prof. Wm. D. Henkle.

On motion, the following named persons were elected to constitute the Board of Missions located at Pittsburgh: Dr. John Scott, Wm. Collier, John Cowl, J. D. Herr, Henry Lucas, Dr. W. Henderson, Wm. Miller, John Redman, Frederick Rinehart, Simpson Horner, Wm. B. English, and R. H. Marshall.

Rev. G. Clancy, Chairman of the Committee on Present and Future Policy of the Church reported further. A division of the Report being called for,

The first section of the Report being read, was, on motion, adopted. The second section was read and adopted.



4th, That we also recommend that such of our ministerial brethren and others as feel disposed so to do, be requested to prepare and forward to our Literary and Publishing Society such manuscripts for publication in book or tract form as they may find convenient.

J. B. WALKER, *Chairman*.

*Inasmuch*, As a desire has been expressed that the "Missionary and Sunday School Journal," published and edited by Br. W. Collier, should receive more definitely the sanction of the church, and a more extensive circulation, we recommend that it be adopted by this Convention as a suitable periodical for the Sunday Schools of the Methodist Protestant Church; but with the following restrictions:

First, That Br. Collier continue his relation thereto as Publisher and Editor.

Second, That the church shall not be liable for any debts which may be incurred by its publication, nor be entitled to any of its profits so long as the present editor shall choose to continue to be the publisher thereof.

Third, That whenever Br. Collier shall feel it his duty to sever his present connection with the journal, or in the event of his decease, then it shall become the exclusive property of the Methodist Protestant Church.

REV. J. S. THRAP offered resolutions in reference to the agency of preachers in procuring subscribers for the paper.

On motion of REV. C. GRAY, the resolutions were considered by items, and then adopted, as follows:

*Resolved*, 1, That we earnestly insist upon all of our ministers and preachers, throughout the Northern and Western confederacy of conferences, to act as agents for our Paper and Book Concern in soliciting subscribers to the paper and making sales of books.

*Resolved*, 2, That, to maintain equality among brethren, the itinerant ministers and preachers be and are hereby required to pay one dollar per year for the paper, and that they be allowed ten per cent. on every remittance they make for the paper—the overplus of agency to be paid them in books on their order.

*Resolved*, 3, That the claims of our Book and Publishing House be presented throughout the confederacy of conferences herein represented, as worthy the beneficence of the liberal.

*Resolved*, 4, That all agents for the paper be and are hereby earnestly requested to make immediate collections, as far as in their power, of the outstanding dues of the paper.

MONDAY EVENING, 7 O'CLOCK.

Convention met and opened with religious services, by REV. H. PALMER.

On motion, the Report of the Committee on Missions was taken from the table, considered, amended, and adopted, as follows:

### *Report of Committee on Missions.*

Your Committee to whom was referred the subject of Missions, have had the same under consideration, and recommend the following action on the part of the Convention:

1. *Whereas*, we as a denomination, for the want of a suitable plan of operations in the great missionary work, have failed to be as useful as we desire, and as we feel that the time has fully come when we should enter more extensively into the work of harvesting the world for Christ, by sending out men to preach the gospel,

Therefore we recommend the re-appointment of a Board of Missions in the city of Pittsburg and vicinity, who shall meet, organize and work according to the plan laid down in our Discipline, page 60.

2. We also recommend that the several Annual Conferences, at their annual



stitute of its constitutional elements, and the brotherhood of the association being so broken that the sections could no longer work together; it is alleged that, "to maintain official connection with slaveholding conferences, as matters stand, would be to give official countenance to the evils we profess to deprecate."

Hence, the resolution, of suspension, taken in its connection, speaks for itself. It reads:

"Therefore, *Resolved*, That indisputable facts, the inductions of sound logic, the dictates of Christian prudence, and an enlightened sense of our duty to God and man, justify and warrant this Convention in the name of the several Annual Conferences herein represented, to now declare all official connection, co operation and official fellowship with and between said Conferences, and such Conferences and churches, within the Methodist Protestant Association, as practice or tolerate slaveholding and slavetrading, as specified in said Memorial, to be now suspended, until the evil of slavery complained of be removed, and they agree to put back the general interests, and work with their brethren of the West and North, in sustaining them under the Constitution."

This suspension was an official withdrawal, of all official countenance to the evils deprecated; and the resolution was adopted as a bond of union among the Northern Conferences. Now it would seem clear as light of day, that while said Conferences in good faith adhere to the platform adopted, as above, they are an organized brotherhood, agreeing to work together under the Constitution and Discipline of the Methodist Protestant Church, and are as loyal Methodist Protestants as the Southern section possibly can be.

Our future policy seems to require the call of a Convention with full powers to legislate upon the Constitution and Discipline of the Church. It is, therefore, submitted, that this Convention recommend to the Annual Conferences of the Methodist Protestant Association, to concur,

1, In the call of a Convention to meet at 6th Street Church, Cincinnati, Ohio, on the first Wednesday of November, in the year 1862, which shall have full power to legislate upon the Constitution and Discipline of the Church.

2, It is recommended to said Conferences to be governed by the same ratio of representation which constituted the basis of representation to this body, to wit: one minister and one layman for every one thousand members within the district, provided, that Conferences embracing less than one thousand members shall be entitled to one ministerial and one lay delegate; and provided, also, that Conferences that have a fraction of six hundred over even thousands, shall be entitled to one minister and one layman for said fraction.

3, Said Convention shall also have power to make any regulations necessary in relation to the publishing enterprise at Springfield, and to elect the Editor and Book Agent.

4, It is also recommended that the Literary and Publishing Society at Springfield, issue a circular to all the Conferences in time to meet their last session preceding the above specified time, calling their attention to the importance of taking action favorable to said call.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

GEO. CLANCY, *Chairman*.

Rev. J. J. SMITH offered a vote of thanks to the citizens of Pittsburgh and vicinity for their kindness in entertaining the Convention, which, on motion, was adopted by rising vote.

Rev. J. J. WHITE and Rev. W. R. PARSONS were appointed a committee to prepare the minutes for publication in pamphlet form.

Rev. C. GRAY offered the following resolution which was referred to the Book Agent.

*Resolved*, That the Book Agent at Springfield be author-



The third item of the Report being before the Convention, was amended by inserting 1862 as the time for the next Convention recommended, instead of 1864.

REV. H. PALMER offered a resolution as an amendment to the Report, instructing the Convention recommended to be held in 1862 to form themselves into a General Conference, which, on motion, was laid on the table.

On motion of REV. A. H. BASSETT, the time recommended in the Report for holding the Convention of 1862 was changed from the last Wednesday of October to the first Wednesday in November.

This item was then adopted as amended.

On motion the report in reference to the basis of representation in Conferences having only fractional numbers was changed from 750 to 600.

The fifth item of the Report was, on motion, adopted.

On motion, Cincinnati was substituted for Springfield, as the proposed place for holding the Convention of 1862.

The Report was then, on motion, adopted as amended, as follows:

### *Report of Committee on Future Policy.*

Before determining our future policy, it is deemed of much importance that this Convention should correctly understand the position taken by the Northern and Western Conferences in the Springfield Convention, held in 1858, touching the Discipline, and the Methodist Protestant Church, and their relation to the Southern section of the Methodist Protestant Association; and this understanding can be had only by reference to the official proceedings of said Convention, as published in their Journal.

And, first, touching the Discipline, the action of said Convention clearly sets forth three facts, to wit: 1st. The alterations ordered to be made in the discipline were directly authorized by definite instructions of all the Conferences represented in said Convention. 2. The said instructing Conferences were fully warranted in conjointly authorizing the publication of an edition of the Discipline, containing the changes referred to, by that provision in Art. 7., Sec. 4, of the Constitution, which directly empowers the Annual Conferences "to make such special rules and regulations as the peculiarities of the districts may require." And the third fact set forth is in brief, that the Discipline thus revised did thereby become the authorized edition of the Methodist Protestant Discipline in all the Annual Conferences represented in that Convention, and in such Conferences as might thereafter concur in the action of said Convention. (See page 17 to 19, of Convention Proceedings)

In the light of the above facts, the position of the Northern Conferences touching the Methodist Protestant Discipline, seems to be definitely settled without any additional action.

Secondly. What position the said Northern Conferences did take in relation to the slaveholding section of the Methodist Protestant Association, can be understood only by reference to the action of said Convention upon the subject of suspension. Page 10 to 13, of Journal.

And, first, the resolution of suspension, is based upon a series of definitely enumerated facts, showing that the slave power had made aggressions upon the General Conference and other general institutions of the Association, until the General Conference had become a legal nullity, and existed in mere name, des-



## OUR POSITION VINDICATED.

## RESOLUTION AND REMARKS,

*Offered by A. H. Bassett, in the M. P. Convention at Pittsburgh, Pa., Nov. 15th, 1860. Published by order of the Convention.*

*Resolved,* That this Convention, in behalf of the Conferences and Churches herein represented, gratefully acknowledge the goodness of God in bringing us as a people through the late agitations to our present state of general peace and union among ourselves.

That we have had agitation as well as controversy is what every body knows. That in course of the controversy or agitation, all that has been said, or written, or done, has been in accordance with the wisdom that cometh from above, is what nobody claims. But we have acknowledged God in our ways, have besought Him to be our guide, have called upon Him to remember our Zion, and save her from reproach. And hath He not been entreated of us? Hath He not interposed to keep us from threatened disruption, save in a few local instances? Fears were entertained, and predictions were uttered that we would split upon the rock of disunion, and go apart into fragments, as though the frown of heaven would rest upon us. And for what? For what indeed, but that we did not heartily move along in communion with those who maintain a mammoth wrong.

We were in perplexity—the minds of some were in gloom and fear. But we aimed to do right, and trust in God. And has He not sent deliverance and brought back our captivity? And is not his peace upon us? And may it not be said and sung, that

“Our sun is risen in glory—  
God himself appears our friend,  
Great deliverance!  
Zion's King vouchsafes to send.”

Here I desire to show that our present Church position, including our detachment from the slaveholding portion, had become a necessity, essential to our very existence.

The South always had the advantage of us, though for a long time we outnumbered them in membership. Our several preliminary Conventions were held in Baltimore. That of 1828, at which were adopted certain Conventional Articles, had more than three fourths of its delegates from Southern States, though all the delegates elected from the West were present, and all from the Northern States except two or three. It is hardly surprising then that at the dictation of two North Carolina gentlemen, an article was introduced, numbered *fifteen*, disclaiming any interference with the peculiar institution. These gentlemen announced that they came under instructions to withdraw, in case any measure was proposed inimical to the interests of the Slaveholding portion of the Church. Please observe, this occurred long before the beginning of the anti slavery excitement in the country, full six years before the term *abolition* was invented as an offensive epithet. Our Northern brethren had to yield, and accept the article, though I know some of them were ashamed of it. They could not help themselves, save by secession. They admitted the obtrusive article, by endurance, lest their enemies should find cause to rejoice that the Reformers were divided among themselves. The best apologies possible were made for this Article XV. One was, that it was but *temporary*, that in two years more a permanent Constitution was to be formed, when all would doubtless be made right. But the committee appointed to draft the Constitution and Discipline consisted of five Southern men. We speak not to disparage them, but simply to show that they would not be likely in the work before them to lose sight of the claims of their slaveholding brethren.

At the Convention of 1830, assembled to frame and adopt the Constitution and Discipline, about three-fifths of the delegates were from Slave States, and the same champions for slavery who figured in the previous Convention were



ized to furnish the Book Agent of North Illinois Conference with books at 30 per cent. discount at three months credit.

On motion of Rev. H. M. MARSHALL, that part of the Report of Committee on our Present and Future Relations, which relates to our Future Policy, was ordered to be published in the Western Methodist Protestant.

On motion,

*Resolved*, That we hereby express our high appreciation of the kindness of Br. W. H. GARRARD, in extending to this Convention a free ride to the Allegheny Cemetery and back again.

On motion, a vote of thanks was tendered to the Chairman and Secretaries, for the able manner in which they have performed their duties.

On motion, Rev. D. Kinney was appointed on the Board of Education, in place of Dr. Kost, who has resigned.

On motion, the Convention adjourned *sine die*.

GEO. BROWN, *President*.

J. J. WHITE, *Secretary*.



induced still to wait and hope on. Allow me to say, just at that juncture, I was serving my first year as editor of the Western Recorder, and some of the most zealous service I ever rendered, if indeed my friends can at all accord to me the merit of zeal, was during that year, and, on one or two subsequent occasions, in endeavoring to pacify our anti-slavery friends, and prevent rupture and sub-division. Right glad was I when Rev. E. A. Wheat, of Genesee, came to my help, during the early part of 1847, and furnished a series of articles on "Church Division—Things to be Considered"—intended to counteract Church separation at that time. I mention this in view of stating another particular which I will presently do.

In lapse of years, we fully found that though we had thus far acted in good conscience and in good faith, in laboring to promote the unity as well as purity of the Church, that it would be a fruitless endeavor to prevent divisions among ourselves in the North, whilst maintaining our connection with slaveholders; that we were propping up a forlorn hope of disengaging ourselves from the evil. It seemed that the light of the times—and the spirit of the age were against us—that the conscience of our community was against us, and I had like to have said that even the politics of the country was getting against us—the politics of all the world, except, if you please, South Carolina and the neighboring provinces.

Here I will venture to give a paragraph of personal history which has not heretofore met the public eye. After the General Conference of 1854 separated the publishing interests, and proposed a Convention of Northern and Western Representatives, at Zanesville, in November of that year, I was addressed as editor by several excellent and honored brethren, advising that a public call be issued for the initiative steps to be taken at the then pending Convention, for a distinct Northern or anti-slavery organization. I refrained from publishing the call, and the brethren were so considerate as not to be provoked with me therefor. But few persons knew of the affair. I corresponded with the writers, endeavoring to show them that such action at that time would be premature. They were so kind as to concur with me, and so the matter was not introduced, either in the paper, or at the Zanesville Convention. Here I would mention, to show that the course proposed as above would have been premature, that the Genesee Conference, still true to the union, did delegate Br. Wheat to attend that Convention, under definite instructions to retire from the body, and withdraw the adherence of his Conference, in case any measure should be attempted in the Convention, looking to a division of the Church. Br. W. served in that Convention, and did not have to withdraw. But note the march of sentiment. If Genesee then did right, according to her convictions, she did right also at a subsequent session, when she approved the action of the Cincinnati Convention, and instructed her delegates to the Springfield Convention of 1858, "to use all proper means to effect immediate and entire separation from slavery and slaveholders, and make such alterations in the Discipline as shall be necessary to make it accord with the principles of freedom." And the same brother wrote me that "not a dissenting breath or whisper was heard against the measures contemplated by the Springfield Convention movement. "We have," said he, "suffered too much as a Conference to resist the hand that offers us relief from our greatest hindrance—and our prayer is, God speed the right." It is no inconsistency for a man, or for a Conference to change its official position, when relative circumstances require. Duty, consistency itself may demand it.

The General Conference of 1854 did hit upon a bright idea, in suggesting the measure of holding conventions. Our brethren met in these bodies, and they found it was *good*. They cheered each other's hearts and strengthened each other's hands. Conventions have providentially been attended with results, of vast importance, which were not contemplated in the outset. We therein rejoice, aye, and will rejoice. The first two Conventions, 1854 and 1856, gave attention exclusively to the literary and publishing interests. But the third one, held in Cincinnati in 1857, was convened expressly in view of considering our relation to the slaveholding portion of the Church, and our duty in reference



now also on hand, and took the lead in shaping Articles VII and XII, to suit their own notions. As usual, we submitted.

Our brethren were conservative, and for many years succeeded in keeping the church together. We were never, however, reconciled to the fact that the Church winked at the existence of a great evil within its pale. We aimed, and hoped for the expurgation thereof from the entire Church. While hope of attaining this end was maintained, we prospered and increased, to a surprising extent. At the first General Conference, 1834, we numbered 16,000 members in the North, to 10,000 in the South. At the second General Conference, 1838, the proportions were nearly the same. For a long season, we were good conservatives, and hoped that through the influence of the connection, and interchange at the General Conferences, we would ultimately influence the slaveholding brethren to part with their sin. At the General Conferences of 1842 and 1846, a feeble expression was adopted, considering the holding of slaves under some circumstances sinful, but declaring the Conference unauthorized by the Constitution to legislate on the subject. The General Conference of 1850, declared the opinion that that body has no jurisdiction over the subject of Slavery.

Many of our people and preachers too, despaired of seeing the Church free from the evil, and on conscientious grounds forsook us, and sought other connections. Our progress was arrested, and our brethren South, who used to be in the minority, first outgained us, and then outnumbered us. At the General Conference of 1854, we numbered little over 30,000, whilst they numbered nearly 40,000.\* This being the case, how idle is it that some have continued to talk of waiting till we can influence two thirds of the whole number of the Annual Conferences, to consent to some recommendation to the General Conference disapproving slaveholding. Meanwhile, the Wesleyan brethren had organized, about 1843, on the anti-slavery principle. Their leading men have repeatedly declared and proclaimed that had the M. P. Church been free from the evil, they never would have started the Wesleyan denomination. So says, at this day, Rev. C. Prindle, editor of the Wesleyan.

In 1857, Rev. Wm. Reeves, then President of the Pittsburg Conference, of which he is one of the oldest members, wrote as follows:

"We have been continually losing valuable members and ministers, from the beginning of our work. Were it not for slavery in our Church, said he, I believe all our Northern work would have been double or triple what it now is, and probably much more than that."

At about the same time, Rev. W. H. Miller, then President of the New York Conference, and who had traveled all over his State, and also over the West, wrote thus:

"Our connection with slaveholders results disastrously to our interests as a Church here at the North. We have lost one entire Conference on that account. Nearly, if not quite half the old Vermont Conference was swept from us by the same cause. And all over the North and West, societies and individuals have left us, and sought other Church relations, rather than be in church fellowship with slaveholders. The drain continues, and threatens to become more serious than ever. Besides, many persons refuse to unite with us on the same ground."

But, so long as there was hope of freeing our Church of reproach, and of keeping our people together, were we not loyal conservatives? and did we not labor faithfully to prevent division? Sir, when the General Conference of 1846 refused to pass certain anti-slavery action, the representatives of two Western Conferences then and there present, did expect that their Conferences would go right off, and never be represented in another General Conference. And other portions of Districts were expected to be severed from us at once, simply because the minds of conscientious anti-slavery men could not be pacified, and

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\*As the Pittsburg District was divided in 1854, we have in this last reckoning assigned half the membership to the Pittsburg and half the Western Virginia District.



is for human improvement, for philanthropy, or for the glory of God, may it not have the divine approval, and should not they who denounce it beware lest they be found fighting against God!

Well, it is desirable to seek the purity and integrity of the church, and to wash our hands of iniquity, if this thing could but be done constitutionally and without revolution. Sir, I should think that if there is any conservatism, about this time, in continental Sicily, that this is about the way an old Italian conservative would talk in November, 1860. "The Neapolitan despotism is bad enough. Our dear friends, many of our best citizens, have suffered long enough, and sadly too much, from the insults and oppressions of the more than brutish police, and many of them the horrors of the loathsome dungeon, and we would be glad to get rid of this tyranny, if the thing could but be done constitutionally and without revolution. Garibaldi, if he is a 'reckless leader,' has a good end in view. But—but—to think of revolution! It will make a rupture—it will rend the church—it will seriously affect the interests of the Catholic religion, and perhaps the Holy Father at Rome will issue a decree of excommunication against us, as he did against that other 'reckless leader,' Victor Immanuel! Garibaldi is all right, were it not for this. But how can we as peaceable citizens consent to a violation of the long established order of things!" And yet, do you not reckon that these old Italian conservatives, within their hearts, feel and know that Garibaldi is right, and wish his cause to triumph, only they refrain from taking any part therein, lest they be charged with being *revolutionary*? It is said that John Jay, in an Episcopal Convention, a few weeks ago, speaking of a certain class of modern conservatives, who are highly fearful of change or revolution, said that if they had lived at the dawn of creation, they would have been agonized at the idea of light or of progress, and would have besought God to preserve and perpetuate chaos!

In the number of the Baltimore Methodist Protestant for Nov. 3d (inst.) I find a letter from a correspondent in Ohio, in which, alluding to our Church position, he makes the following assertion:

"The effect of these revolutionary movements has been to destroy the future prospects of the Church in the West; for sensible men will never commit their spiritual interests to a religious organization which consents to follow in the wake of such reckless leaders as are assuming to dictate the opinions and direct the measures of the Church."

What do you, Mr. President, think of this verdict upon the state and prospects of the Church, as affected by our Conventional doings? I am sure you will agree with me in using the Lilliputian expression, "It is the thing that is not so." Sir, when our controversy was at its most exciting height, just before and after the Cincinnati Convention, did we not have a year of unprecedented prosperity? If the Convention had any influence in the case, was not the Convention a God send? Had we not a continued series of revivals, almost all over our work, with ingatherings by hundreds and by thousands? We had to devote many columns of our paper each week to the revival intelligence, sometimes about a page in a single number. During that year, we had in the Northern Conferences an increase of over six thousand members. Since that year, I am sorry that we have not been able to get full statistics from some Conferences, but enough is obtained to show that we are making steady progress, and are increasing. And, Sir, had other counsels prevailed in 1857—58, does any one think that we would have got along so well, or got along at all? If any one so thinks, it is evident to me that he is not posted in the facts, and is under a great mistake.

But the writer in the Baltimore Protestant brings the charge of *recklessness*. If this term means a disregard of consequences, there is a considerable amount of it passing current with sober, upright people. "Let justice be done, though the heavens fall," is a commonly received saying. I know not that I ever heard it called in question. T. H. Stockton somewhere makes a counterpart to this: "Aye, let the truth be told, though the world blow up!" And would it not be reckless, in the sense of the writer quoted, to have justice done, or to have the truth told, at the risk of such terrible consequences? I was struck



thereto. That Convention adopted a memorial to the coming General Conference, setting forth the embarrassments and losses in which our connection involves us, and setting forth in firm but respectful terms, that unless some initiative measures can be had for expurgating slavery from the Church, we cannot conscientiously consent to a perpetuation of our ecclesiastical union with those who persist in the practice of it. But when we then asked bread of the General Conference, a stone was given us—a hard, cold, indigestible and disgusting thing, called Rev. J. Varden's plan of conciliation. We repudiated it.—For there was in it no wisdom, no relief, no salvation. We now held another Convention, 1858, at which the action of the General Conference was considered, and it was with great unanimity determined that we suspend all further relation and official fellowship with the conferences and churches which sanction or tolerate the evil complained of, until that evil shall be removed. *This was right.* Who, sir, has regretted or repented it?

But it is complained that this thing is not done legally and constitutionally—that we did not wait till we could get the vote of two thirds of the whole number of the Annual Conferences! Sure enough. But the misfortune is that our waiting already had been an almost fatal waiting, that there was less and less prospect of improvement, and that there was a moral certainty that two thirds of the Conferences could not be secured during the present age, if ever.

And we are charged with *revolution*! Sir, we yield to no man in our attachment to established order, where that order is conducive to the existence and well being of society. We join with any man in condemning revolution, where revolution is not necessary to sustain the rights, the integrity and the character of a people. But if we fully find that the cords of social order are causing us to sink, and that if not disengaged, we must go under and perish, then have we not to choose between life and death? And is it our duty to be martyrs, *to die*, for anything but the right? If by the cords of the compact we find ourselves hopelessly trammelled, and in the eyes of God and of the world, made responsible for an iniquity and an enormity that scandalizes us as a body of Christians, and that there is no relief, redress or extrication, but by what they are pleased to term revolution, then, sir, does not that revolution, so far as it is revolution, become a necessity and a duty?

But we are stigmatized as *revolutionists*, as though this were synonymous with malefactors. Yet sir, what American is not proud of his relation to the American Revolution, and what Christian condemns it? Has it not afforded the most popular theme of patriotic eloquence, on our days of national festivity, for these four score years?

*Revolutionists*, are we! And who dares ridicule or disparage the cause of revolution at this day! What American patriot, what friend of freedom, does not glory in the progress of the current revolutions against despotism in Europe and elsewhere! Nay, what Christian does not pray for the continued success of those revolutions, till tyranny shall be crushed, and the man of sin be destroyed! Who does not pray that

“The God that rules on high,  
And all the earth surveys,”

shall overturn, overturn, overturn, till oppressions shall be no more beneath the sun, and the Lord our righteousness shall reign supreme in all lands and in all hearts?

*Revolution!* If the ends of justice and right cannot be attained without revolution, who does not say, however reluctantly, let revolution come? Do your duty, constitutionally, if you can, if not, do your duty.

*Revolution!* And what is revolution? Is it not a rotation or turning? And have not the world and all things terrestrial been making revolutions, night and day, continually, ever since creation's morn? And is not God himself making revolutions continually in the moral world? Whenever he converts a soul, does he not turn him from darkness to light, and from the power and dominion of Satan to God, so that old things are passed away, and all things become new?

God forbid that we should favor any change, or if you please, any thing revolutionary that is for the worse, or for the wrong. But if any required change



## EXTRACT FROM FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT,

*Referred to at Page 8.*

A few facts and suggestions the editor would here offer bearing upon the support of our Church Paper. It is said that the British Wesleyans have but one paper, the London Watchman, which circulates but about four thousand copies, for the benefit of some four hundred thousand members! How is this surprisingly light support to the only Methodist paper in England accounted for? Its price is *six dollars* a year, which would pay for four papers in this country. Well, we apprehend that we would obtain but few subscribers here at that rate of charge; for be it known, that cheap as is our paper at one dollar and a half, there are those who, for want of proper understanding of the expenses of publication, are ready to demand a reduction of our terms to the price of *one dollar*! There are three Methodist Episcopal papers, North and South, in Oregon and California. The price of each is *five dollars* a year. Those papers do not sustain themselves—have to be helped out by the General Conference. That body usually has considerable work of the kind to do. The General Conference lately held at Buffalo had to make liberal appropriations for the relief of several of its official papers, one of which, the Central Christian Advocate, of St. Louis, had sunk over fifteen thousand dollars in three years. And yet this Central Christian Advocate rejoices in a circulation of full eight thousand! The General Conference not only gave relief for existing embarrassment, but made provision that as much as one thousand dollars a year, for the four years to come, if needed, should be applied in aid of this journal, and the same sum for each of the two other papers. In like manner, the last General Conference of the M. E. Church, South, had to make liberal appropriations to relieve some of its periodicals. Even the old Richmond Christian Advocate, for so many years established, though enjoying a subscription list of seven thousand, had fallen in arrears several thousands of dollars, whilst the Quarterly Review of the Church South had become involved in the sum of eight thousand dollars above its income.

The Baltimore Methodist Protestant has been in existence under its various administrations for nearly thirty years. To this day its price is two dollars per year, now required invariably in advance. Its list, a few years ago, was somewhat over four thousand, but by the cutting off operation, the same as in our own case, it has been reduced by more than a thousand. The new rule however, prompted pretty general payments, and at two dollars a year, we apprehend that the paper has done pretty well for these two years past. But we think we hazard nothing in expressing our full conviction, judging from the regular official Reports as published, that that journal for a long series of years did not sustain itself by its income from subscribers, and had to be constantly aided and kept up by its valuable adjunct the Book Concern, which has been to some extent endowed by the liberal gifts of certain wealthy friends, male and female, some of them now deceased, and some still surviving. If our Baltimore contemporary, thirty years old, has thus had to be helped out by the Book Concern, if the Richmond Christian Advocate gets involved in a debt of thousands, with seven thousand subscribers, and if the Central Christian Advocate at St. Louis, does not live with eight thousand, but has to call on the Gen. Conference to help it out at the tune of fifteen thousand dollars, who could suppose that our Church Paper at Springfield, or at any other point, would live and thrive and yield a handsome revenue, with a subscription list of less than three thousand, whilst 425 of these are ministers, most of whom expect their paper for their agency or for their official position, a limited number of them doing nobly as agents, another limited number paying for their copy, at one dollar a year, but a large proportion neither paying in agency nor in cash. Is it surprising that under these circumstances, the publisher of the Western Methodist Protestant is not able to make a more favorable annual exhibit, until our subscription patronage reaches a sustaining point? Where, how, or under what circumstances could a paper, with such a moiety of support come so near to showing a prosperous existence, as this paper of ours at Springfield, Ohio? Our paper each



with a remark some time ago, by a cotemporary Presbyterian editor. "Consistency we admire, even when it knocks a man's brains out." In my judgment, sir, we are bound to do our duty, promptly and firmly, though the heavens should fall, or the world blow up.

As to the recklessness complained of by the writer in the Baltimore paper, assuming that recklessness means an indifference to consequences, I tell you that over thirty years ago, when that same writer was still in the ministry of the M. E. Church, and when a rupture was apprehended, then he used to be a "reckless" man, in the same sense he now charges others. I quote from a notable letter of his, addressed to Rev. D. B. Dorsey, after his suspension by the Baltimore Conference. It is dated May 24, 1827. You may find it in the "Mutual Rights," Vol IV, page 64, or in William's "History of the Methodist Protestant Church," page 165. He there says :

"The course I have pursued in relation to this controversy, I honestly and conscientiously think is right, consequently shall continue to pursue it until I am otherwise convinced. And after I do what I think is *right*, the administration can do in relation to me what *they* think is *right*. As it regards consequences, I have long been indifferent ; although I would not unnecessarily provoke persecution, yet I would not swerve an inch from the course of a manly independence, to prevent the worst that might ensue."

Was that reckless talk, or was it an utterance of noble, "manly independence?" We think the latter, though his opponents doubtless regarded him as *reckless*. Whilst we honor the consistent firmness exhibited at that time by the author of the letter, we protest that he has no right and no cause now to bring the charge of recklessness against those who have, in our late controversy, pursued a course which they "honestly and conscientiously" believed to be right, and who, up to this hour, are not "otherwise convinced."

Mr. President, we assert and maintain the rectitude of our position, let our opponents represent it as they may. We hold that it is just, and that it is politic. We claim that "the course of human events" and of providential circumstances have conspired to make it a necessity and a duty ; and that had we refrained from taking this position, we as a people in the Free State Conferences could but have prolonged an existence of sickly dwindling, which had already begun to prey upon us. But, in the language of the resolution, we gratefully acknowledge the goodness of God in conducting us hitherto, in granting us a return of general peace, with unmistakable indications of enlargement and prosperity. May we not, therefore, sing with the inspired Psalmist :

"When the Lord bringeth back the captivity of his people, Jacob shall rejoice, and Israel shall be glad."